

REMARKS

Sir:

The office action dated October 4, 2005 in the above identified application has been received and carefully studied. This application is a reissue of Patent No. 5,756,891. Claims 1-46 are in the application and stand rejected. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Objections to the Specification

The Examiner has objected to the specification on the grounds that the application was not filed with copies of the figures from the parent case. According to the assignees' records and the application transmittal letter, 35 pages of reissue drawings were submitted with the reissue application as filed. To avoid any further issues, copies of the figures are resubmitted herewith.

Claim Objections

The Examiner has objected to claims 9, 17, and 34 on the grounds that they are improperly numbered. Applicant disagrees that these claims constitute "claims added in the reissue" as they were amended merely to change the dependency. However, to avoid any further issues on this matter, claims 9, 17, and 34 have been canceled and replaced as new claims 47-49.

Claim Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-46 under 35 U.S.C. § 251 on the grounds that the parent application has expired for failure to pay maintenance fees and, therefore, no reissue is possible. Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner is mistaken. A search of the records on PAIR indicates that the maintenance fees for the parent patent No. 5,756,891 have been paid. For reference, a printout of the PAIR records for this patent, showing that the 4-year and 8-year maintenance fees have been paid is attached.

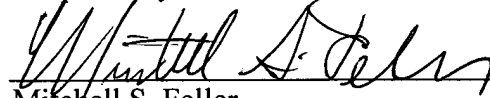
The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 16, and 31 on non-statutory double patenting grounds in view of Patent No. 5,786,582. Submitted herewith is a terminal disclaimer of the present application over the '582 patent. Accordingly, the double patent rejection has been traversed. Applicant notes the Examiner's indication that the remaining claims are otherwise allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the present amendments and remarks, all of the issues raised by the Examiner have been addressed and the present application is in condition for allowance. However, should there be any further concerns, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number below.

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Respectfully submitted,



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